BYAAAAH!!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERE'S THE 9TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA: NODAME CANTABILE.
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED > CROPPED > CLEANED > SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, GO BUY IT FOR
YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR OWN VERSION..
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NOTE: RIGHT, THIS IS THE LAST VOLUME THAT'S
AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT. VOLUME 10 WILL BE OUT IN JULY,
SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR IT.
NOW THAT THIS PROJECT IS UP TO DATE, I'LL BE
MOVING ON TO THE OTHER PROJECTS AND TRY TO GET THEM
TO THE LATEST VOLUME.
FROM NEXT WEEK I'LL ATTEMPT TO RELEASE 3 VOLS A WEEK,
AND ONE OF THEM WILL BE A GETBACKERS RELEASE.
SINCE I'M 12 VOLS BEHIND, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE
TOO LONG >_<
TILL NEXT TIME.

RU

9

Nodame Cantabile

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Winner of the Kodansha Manga Award

デルレイ

Nodame Cantabile 9

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Ballantine Books

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MUSIC TO THE EARS

Nodame's grueling lessons with her teacher have paid off: At last she agrees to play in a piano competition. Too bad there's not enough time for Nodame to learn all the required pieces. . . . Meanwhile, Shinichi has mysteriously overcome his fear of flying and finally decided to go to Europe to further his musical studies. Out of the blue, he asks Nodame to join him—but she turns him down. Determined to get her to change her mind, Shinichi travels to Nodame's hometown. Will the challenge prove too great, once he finds out about Nodame's strange past—and her wacky family?

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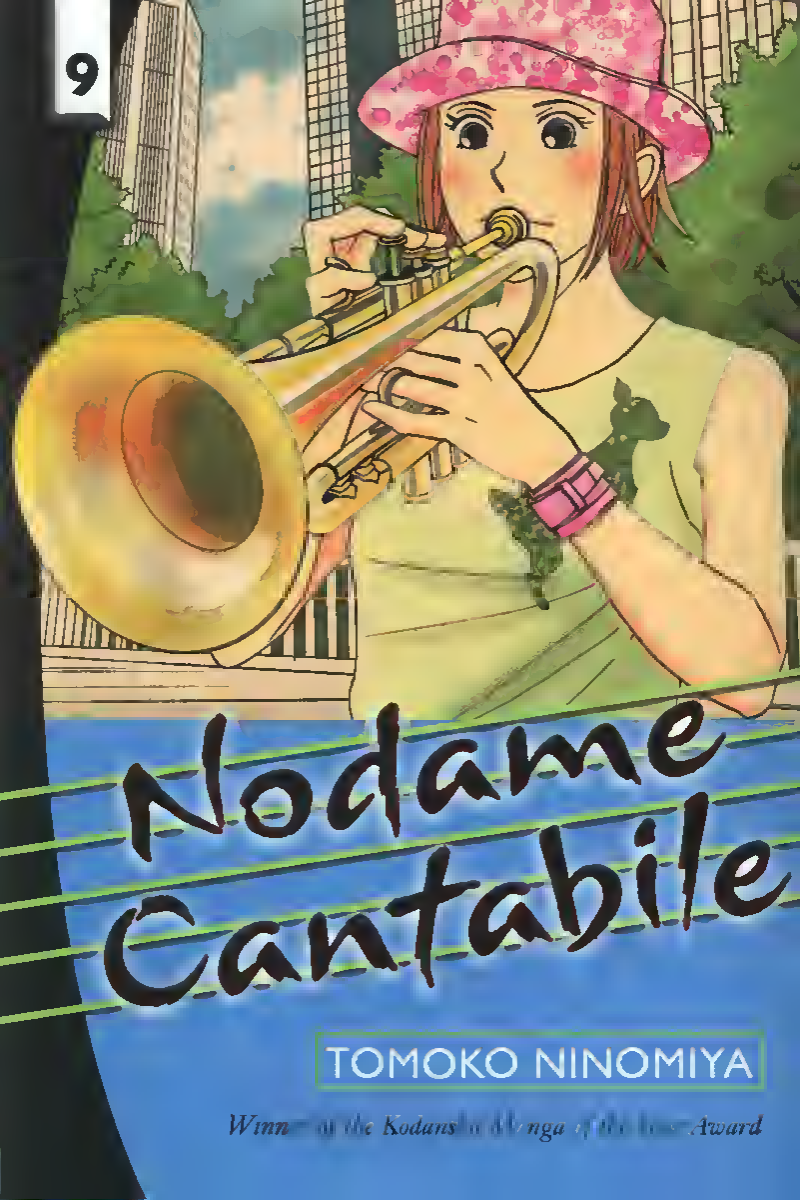
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Nodame Cantabile
TOMOKO NINOMIYA
Winner of the Kodansha Manga Award

Nodame Cantabile

9

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David and Eriko Walsh

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

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A Note from the Author

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.
I like this piece very much, but I couldn't write
that much about it.
I'll try again soon...

TOMOKO NINOMIYA

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is even a higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" or "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

のだめカンタービレ

Nodame Cantabile

#9

二ノ宮知子

NINOMIYA TOMOKO

Introducing the residents of
Nodame's Kingdom ♥ Capriccio Cantabile!
Hau ~~~ n ♥

Noda Megumi
4th year Piano student. She's not good at sight reading and she plays piano her own way. Chiaki and she eat dinner together ♥ like husband and wife. (?) But she's in a one-way love...She's competing in a competition.

Shinichi Chiaki
1st year student at graduate school. He had a phobia of airplanes, so he couldn't go study abroad, but now he's conquered that. He's the talk of the town as the conductor of the R ☆ S Orchestra. What is his next goal...?

Kouzo Etoh & Kaori
He's a piano course professor whose nickname is Harisen and Kaori is his wife. He's a specialist for elite students, but he is fascinated with Nodame's talent and becomes her instructor. He's instructing her in his home.

Rising Star in R☆S Orchestra's members

Kyora Miki
She's a great violinist and has become a concertmistress. She is studying in Vienna but has temporarily returned to Japan in triumph with her Great Master. She's Mine's girlfriend.

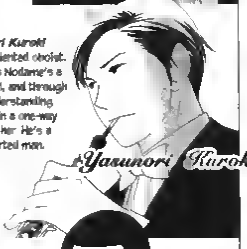
Kyora Miki

Ryutaro Mine
4th year Violin student. His father owns the Chinese restaurant "Uraken" near the school. He's a good friend of Nodame's. He thinks he's Chiaki's best friend.

Ryutaro Mine

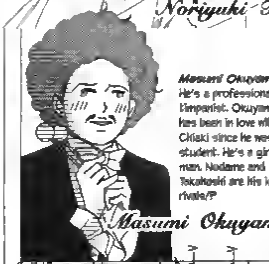
Noriyuki Takahashi
He passes on an offer from the entertainment world and instead joins the R☆S Orchestra. He's a world-class violin player and his aim is to become concertmaster. He's enamored with Chiaki.

Noriyuki Takahashi



Yasunori Kuroki
He's a talented violinist. He thinks Nodame's a lovely girl, and through a misunderstanding ends up in a one-way love with her. He's a pure-hearted man.

Yasunori Kuroki



Masumi Okuyama
He's a professional timpanist. Okuyama has been in love with Chiaki since he was a student. He's a girly man. Nodame and Takahashi are his love rivals!?

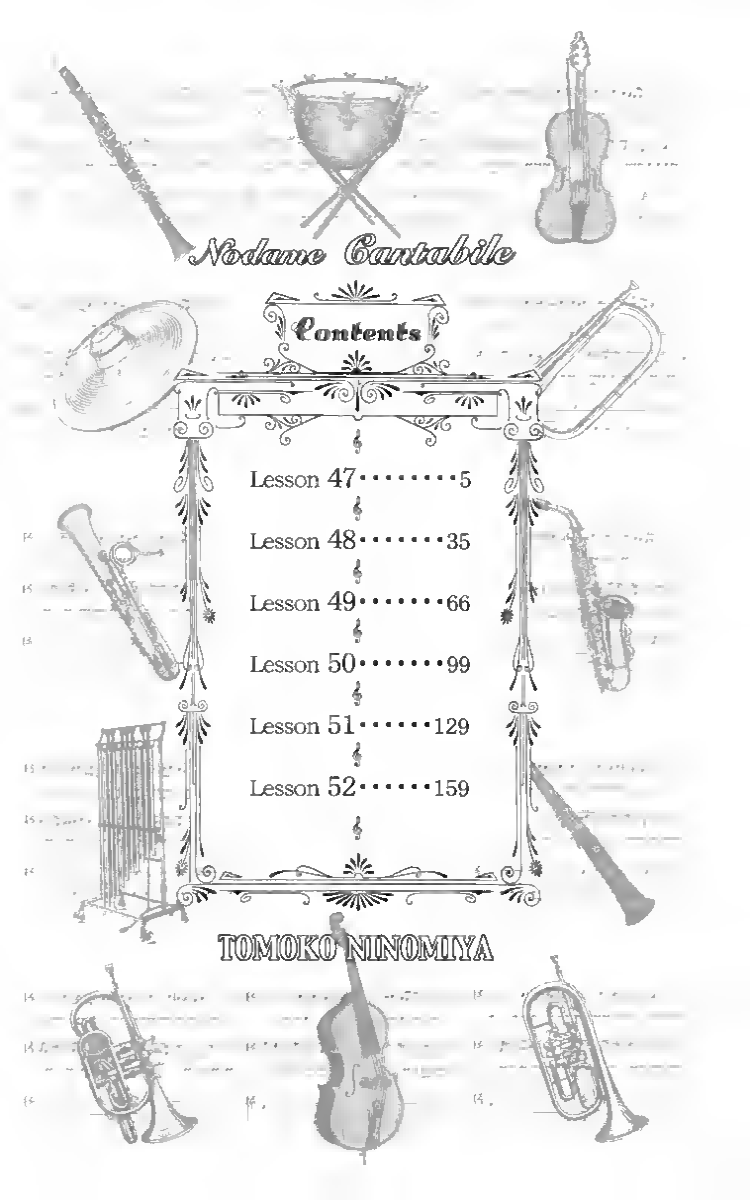
Masumi Okuyama

Toru Kikuchi
He's a cellist and has returned to Japan from abroad for a short stay. His playing is very expressive and he won a winner in a music competition. He's also a ladies' man and has lots of girlfriends.

Toru Kikuchi

Manabu Sakuma
He's a popular music critic who writes poems in his article "Dream☆Classic." He's fascinated with Chiaki's talent and is trying to help him succeed.

Manabu Sakuma



Nodame Cantabile

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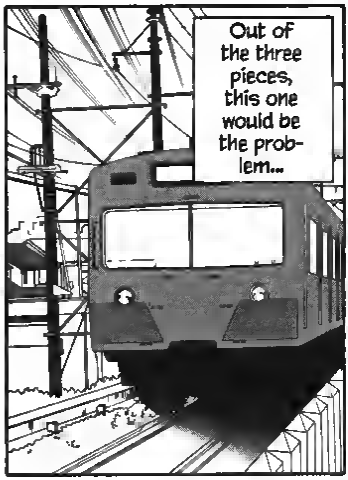
TOMOKO NINOMIYA

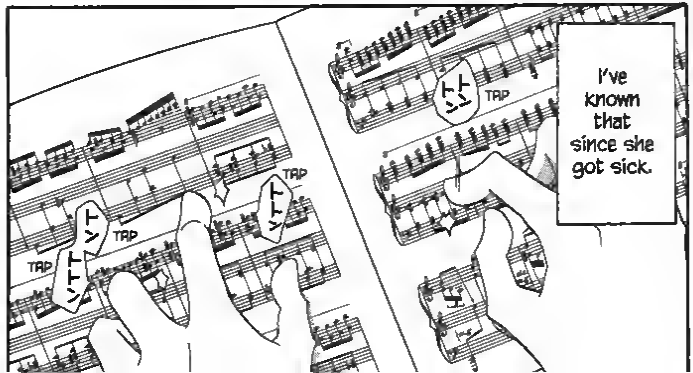
Lesson 47

Pe-
trouchka...
It sounds like a festival in a crazy toy world...
This is "The 3rd movement from Petrouchka."
Once more from the begin-ning.

It's time!!
Nodame-chan!


Out of the three pieces, this one would be the problem...

You need to put your dress on!!
WAA!
You have to leave for the finals now!!
Hurry up!!


I've known that since she got sick.
トン
TRP
トン
TRP
トン
TRP
トン
TRP

Tantara tararara chanchan cha-n
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
トトトン
トトトン
トトトン
↑NHK "Today's Recipe"
Noda!
We're getting off at the next stop.
You're at Cafe Mexico in Ryougoku ……!?
Hello... Yamada!?
Where are you?
Nodame-chan
FRUSTRATED
もう
Nodame-chan!
Hurry up, hurry up!

She may even be disqualified.
But...it's impossible for her to play it, even though she has exceptional memory/
I can't let her play it.
It would insult the gods/
She won't give up on this last piece.
Oh...
I know her.
Maradona Piano Competition Finals

Her playing is good, but it's very plain.
That's not my taste.
Really?
She won 3rd place in a competition that our company sponsors.
Does she enter competitions a lot?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
What are you talking about...?
Just like your first girlfriend.
She's pretty, too, but I can't remember her face...
I know him.
He's a 4th year student of Harisen's, at our school...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WAA!
Ah...

BEETHOVEN. Sonata No. 23 in F minor, op57 "Appassionata"

This isn't an etude!
Harisen always told me this last movement should be played bold and fast.
You have to consider the whole movement!!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WWW
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
How nice ♥
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
キャー
KYA

TATAN
TATATA
CLAP
CLAP
TO
TON
TO
TO
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TO
TO
TOT
O
TO
TON
TA
TA
TAN
TO
TON
That mouth...
Megumi-chan?
Harisen has changed...

It's you, Megumi-chan.
クス!
SNICKER
Hyottoko Megumi-chan.
Yuuto-kun...
You're still playing piano...?
I'm surprised you're in this competition...
Today...
Hanazakura-sensei is here.
Hm...
You're going to play Petrouchka?

I'm not going to lose to you again.
It's time for a snack, Yuuto-kun.
So am I.
SNICKER
クス
Genius starts to fade once you reach 20 years old.
Right?
Oh!
お～っ
I found you!
Nodame-chan!!
キャー
KYA!
You have to put your dress on!!
What are you doing!?
GRAB
It's almost your turn!!
Next...
It's Nodame-chan's turn, right?

Mozart, Schumann and Stravinsky...
I wonder what she's playing?
I'm looking forward to this.
ドキー
NERVOUS
What's her style?
I wonder if she mastered all three pieces...?
NERVOUS
ドキ
NERVOUS
ドキ
Has her playing gotten that much better to where she can be a finalist/?
In her case...
WAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Time isn't a problem for her.
Ah/ Shinichi.
Here comes Nodame-chan//

わっさ
FWOMP
わっさ
FWOMP
Oh!
WAA!
She's powered up!!
She's coming out!
WA
HA
HA
Gorgeous dress!!
Scarlett O'Hara ~~~~!

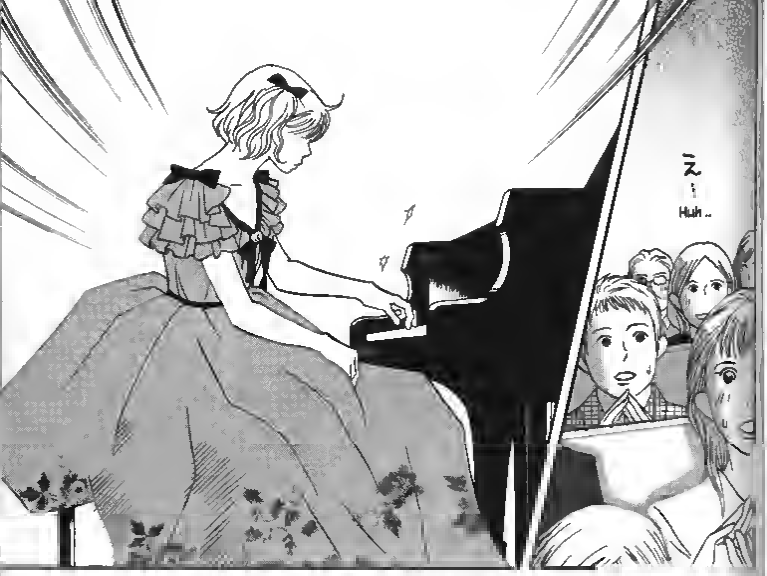
I wonder how she'll play today?
アハハ
AHA HA HA HA
Ready?
Her playing is different, too!
Her playing changes depending on her mood.
ギャはは
GYA HA HA
She dressed up like Scarlett O'Hara for the final!?
She's crazy for sure!

She's doing a tightwire act!!

MOZART: Sonata k.300d (310) A minor

What a beautiful sound...
She was never good at playing Mozart...
Harisen did a good job.
This was a good choice.
Her playing is colorful and outstanding...

And like the sound of an orchestra
WAR...



SCHUMANN Sonata No 2 in G minor op 22

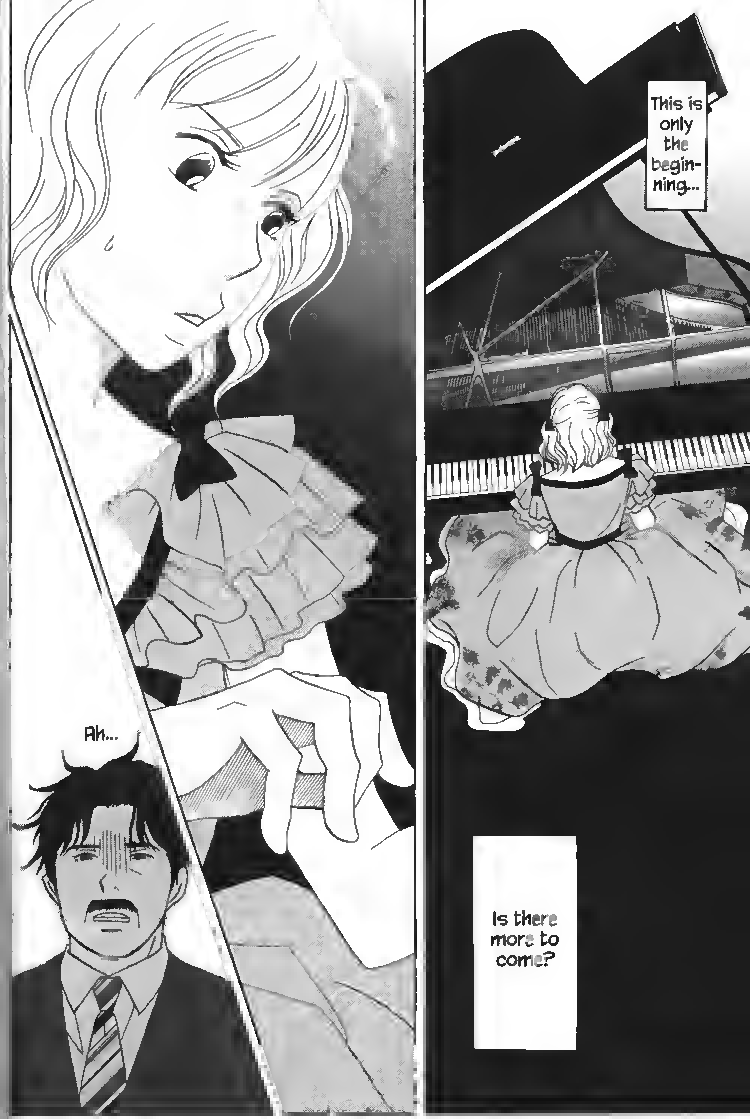
She plays a powerful Schumann.
This is the first time I've ever heard her play...
like this.

Perfect syncopation
What great concentration...
It's so fast...
The rhythm emanates from her...
Like she's possessed...

Don't wear yourself out...
Baby-chan.
There's something that you want...
And you came here to get it, didn't you.

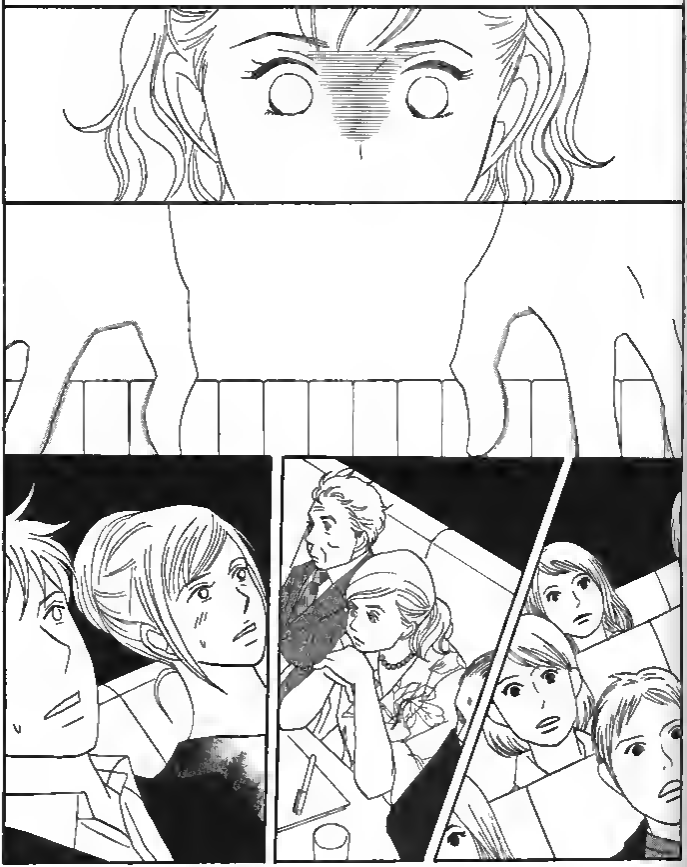
WAR!
Bravo!
CLAP
Bravo!!
You played very well, Noda...
Kouzo-san...
She still has one more piece to play, but the audience is...

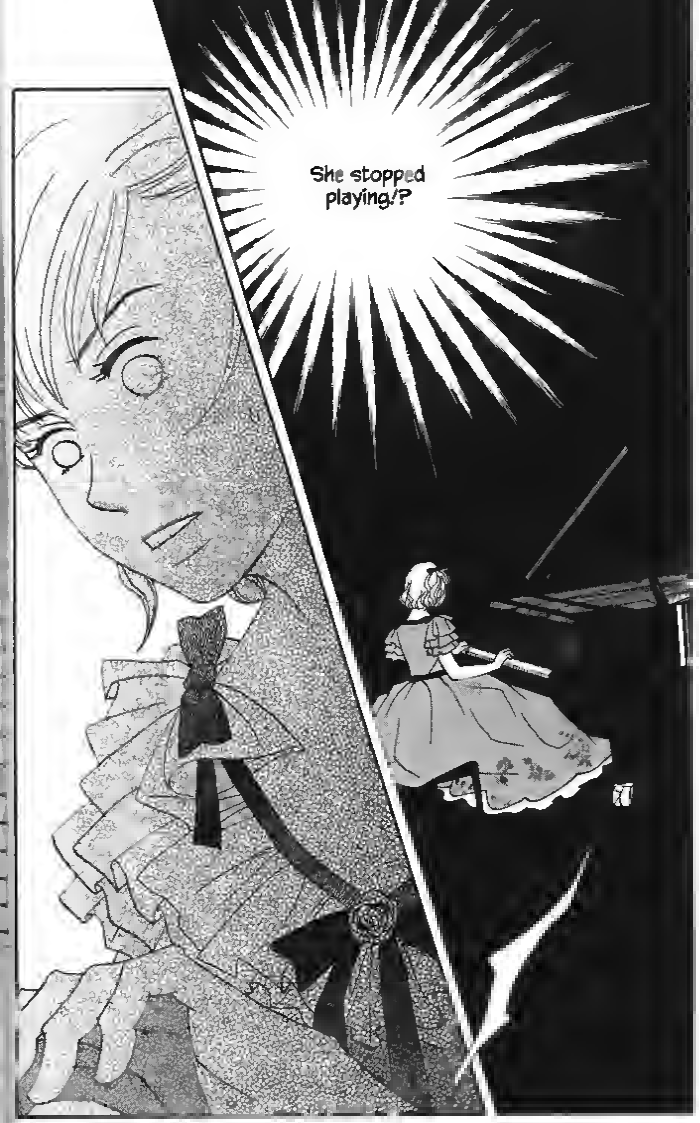
You should stand...
But...
Your piano has expressed all it could.
WAH/
It's over.
and take your bow...
Nodame ...
Noda ...!?


This is only the beginning...
Is there more to come?
Ah...

STRAVINSKY: Three movements from Petrouchka
The first movement <Russian Dance>
The puppeteer plays his flute and the three puppets come to life...
And begin to dance an awkward dance among the crowd in St. Petersburg.

Today's Recipe




She stopped playing!?

Lesson48

She stopped playing!?

Huh!
She started up again!?
No... she is...

Improvising!!?
Her mind went blank...
This... this isn't Petrouchka, is it?
The melody ...
but this is totally different!
it's a little like it...
Has she completely forgotten the piece!?

Crazy
toy
world...

What's her image of this piece!?
What is she playing...?
What she's playing is complicated. .
But...
Is she really improvising!?
It sounds like one of the required pieces for the competition.
She's back to Petrouchka in the second movement!
Oh...

The puppeteer kicks Petrouchka into his black box, which is his prison cell.
Although he can't reach the Ballerina, he feels...
Happiness.
The clown is angry and fearful of the puppeteer.

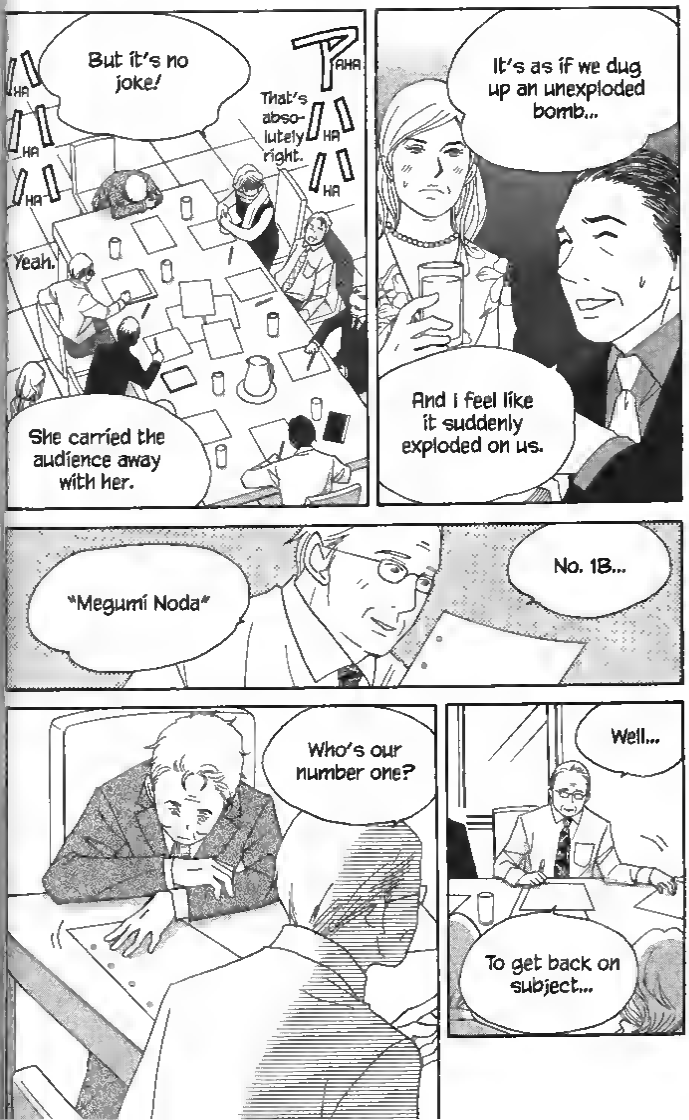
And the
festival

Petrouchka the clown could not distinguish between dream and reality...
He died a sad death...

BOW
SKREEECH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WAA!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WAA
Despite everything, she performed very nicely.
But changing a piece
is unacceptable in a competition.

That girl
is a more unique player than I expected.
But...
There wasn't enough time to prepare.
Ulti-mately


But it's no joke!
HA
HA
HA
That's absolutely right.
AHA
HA
HA
Yeah.
She carried the audience away with her.
It's as if we dug up an unexploded bomb...
And i feel like it suddenly exploded on us.
"Megumi Noda"
No. 18...
Who's our number one?
Well...
To get back on subject...

WAA
4th place! No. 8... Ryuji Tsuboi!
3rd place! No. 10... Hidemi Uchidate!
5th place! No. 6...
6TH place!
Megumi Noda...
Megumi Noda
And...
At this time there is no 1st place... and 2nd place is...
Yuuto Segawa!

Why is there no 1st place winner!?
This could turn into a horror movie...
CLAP
WAR
No winner, as I expected.
I'm satisfied with Tsuboi-kun...
I wish I had come from the first preliminary.
It was such an enjoyable competition.

Shinichi...
Do you think Nodame-chan will have a little time to talk to us?
Can you ask her, ?
Nodame.

Next year...

Next year...
Will you go to Europe with me?
I can't leave her the way she is now.
If you want to continue studying piano, our graduate school isn't good enough for you.
I think Europe would be better.
They're more tolerant of odd people.

Why do I have to go overseas and concentrate on studying piano?
With you...
You should go abroad and see things.
Eh..
But... I thought...
You want to improve your piano playing, right!?
Why...?
Feel something different...
Have new experiences...

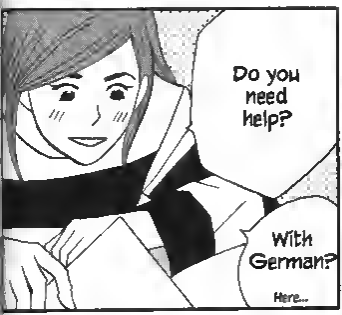
Money!?
Why does everybody...
think that's so wrong!?
I wanted money for playing around!!
The reason I entered the competition is...
That's why you entered the competition.
I wanted the prize money!
Always, always...
Can't you play as I tell you!?
You should aim for a higher goal!!
From the beginning...
Go fly out into the world!!
I'm tired...
I've had enough!!

I want to play piano my way and enjoy it.
Is that so wrong!?!
You performed on a stage...
In a competition...
Didn't you enjoy it?
Nodame
...
No, I didn't!

Today...
This was the first time I'd heard you play all the right notes.
Okay.
I understand.
Your performance was great.

But...
I didn't win...

Why does the next performance have to be in January ?
HEE
German
It overlaps with the exam!!
December
Merry Christmas
Chinese Food Uraken
★Uraken★
What am I going to do about the graduate exam !?
I forgot all about it.
You're the one who wanted to do a New Year's concert!


Do you need help?
With German?
Here...

You *are* an idiot...
Don't treat me like an idiot!!

Why didn't anyone stop me from making plans!?
Kuroki-kun too
They have exams!
Maybe you're upset because you're the only one who hasn't studied yet...

Christmas Cake
Advance order
Until 12 / 25
No.
I'm busy with something.

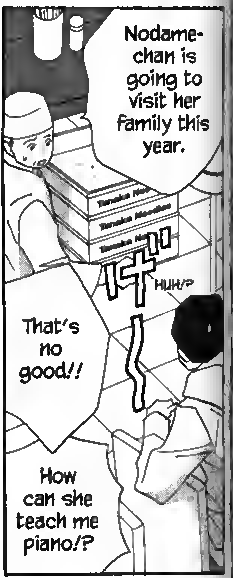
Sensei
Can you help me again?

If it's piano, why don't you ask Nodame?
HA HA HA
PLOP!
Ryu
Please~
Teach me the fundamentals of piano.
No.
I swore to the gods that I'd never teach you anything again.
Oh...! Dad!
What a great idea!
Nodame?
Yeah, Nodame!
Chiaki, can you ask her?
I haven't seen her lately.
Tell her she can stay overnight here and study. I'll even feed her.
She has exams, too.
You tell her.
I haven't seen her either.

Why are you talking like that?
Did you break up with her!?
We're not husband and wife!
Was there a fight between husband and wife?
EH...
What's she like? What's she like?
I didn't know Chiaki-kun had a girlfriend. ♡
Hm~~
Christmas is coming soon.
Can't you make up with her?
Huh ~ ?
But... Chiaki.
If I had to describe her in one word, it would be "odd."
Like on discovery TV shows...
All those unpredictable animals.

Ah...
I just remembered...

I'm sorry, I can't do you a favor this year.
Don't worry about it.
Masumi-chan and Takahashi-kun will attack you.

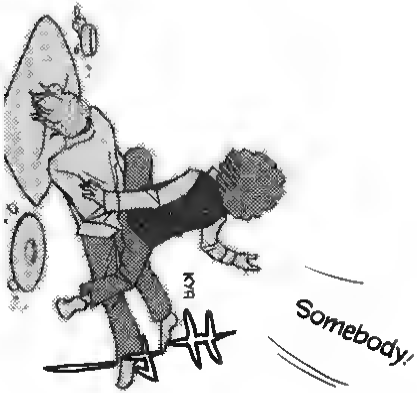

Nodame-chan is going to visit her family this year.
HUH/?
That's no good/!
How can she teach me piano/?

I haven't heard her playing piano in her room.
Gyabo! What am I gonna do!?
Since that day...

That's all right...
ガチャン
Gachan
It's not my business anymore.

TO
TO
TO
TO
TO
TON
トトトトトン
TA
TA
TAN
タタタン
TO
トトン
TON

Lesson49


KA
Somebody!

Noda residence

Megumi hasn't visited us for 2 years.
The whole family hasn't gotten together for a few years now.
HA
HA
HA
But she came back to visit us now...
She hasn't dropped out yet so she must be trying hard.
You're just playing around in Tokyo, aren't you?
HA
HA
HA
Yoko Noda (48)
Nodame's mother
Tatsuo Noda (47)
Nodame's father

Megumi, Yoshitaka... here are your...
Otoshi-dama.
Kisaburo Noda (73)
Nodame's grandfather
HA
HA
HA
I'm proud of you.
That's true.
Thank you Grandma and Grandpa.
Yoshitaka Noda (20)
Nodame's younger brother
• University student
Great!
I hope this is the last time for her...
This is the last time for you, Megumi.
Shizuyo Noda (70)
Nodame's grand-mother
What are you going to do after you graduate, Megumi?

I decided to call you bad investment from now on!
You haven't even looked for a job.
Sis, you didn't go to be a student teacher, did you?
She has no plans!
Bad investment!?
Bad..
Why is sis's otoshidama more than mine!?
1,000 yen more!!
Ah! What's this!?
My otoshidama!
Dried seaweed farmer
Do you want to join the family business and make dried seaweed with me?
What are you talking about!?
Do you want her to destroy the family business!?

She's the reason I needed to work!
And you have a part-time job.
Because she's your big sister.
Assertion
I don't think she could enter a regular university even if she tried!
But what would she have left if we took the piano away from her!?
Everybody wants to spend money on her!
You guys paid an expensive tuition for her to go to music college and she became a bad investment after all!
Thank you for the meal.
KACHK
That'll never happen!
That'll get her a better marriage.
That's right!
But if she graduates from a music university, people will think she's well bred and from a higher social standing.

She's acting strange...
You're not gonna have ozoni!?
Megumi!
Yeah... but...
She's always acted strange.
That's not unusual.
ピコーン
BOINNNG
ピコーン
BOINNNG

KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
KLK
Megumi hasn't played piano even once since she came home...

Good to see you again...
Tokyo
café de ser
You, too.
Happy New Year!

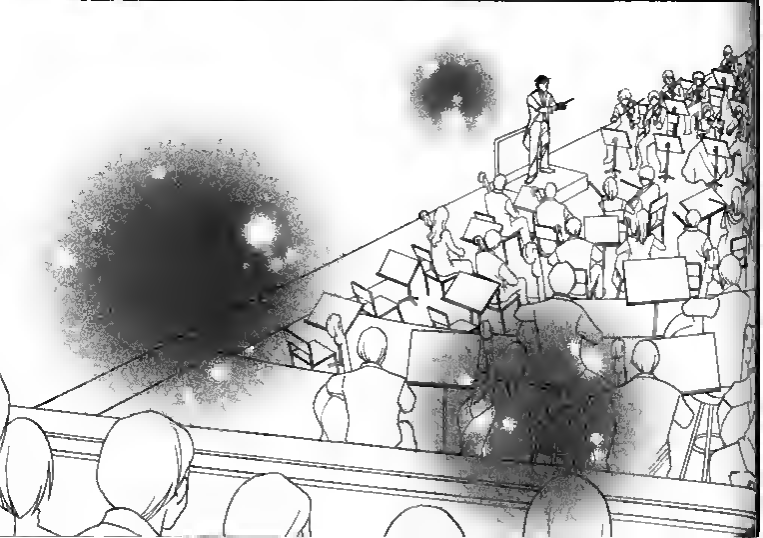
You look like you're coming down from the mountain after training.
Well... I've been studying.
And also rehearsing.
That's why I look like this.
So...
You wanted to tell me something regarding Matsuda-san?
Yeah.
He likes the R☆S Orchestra very much.
But he's concerned that some of the principal members will be gone.
Ahh...
Well, he doesn't have to worry about that.
He'll see, the next time we perform.
I'll have coffee and a ham sandwich.
You're very confident.
You always are...

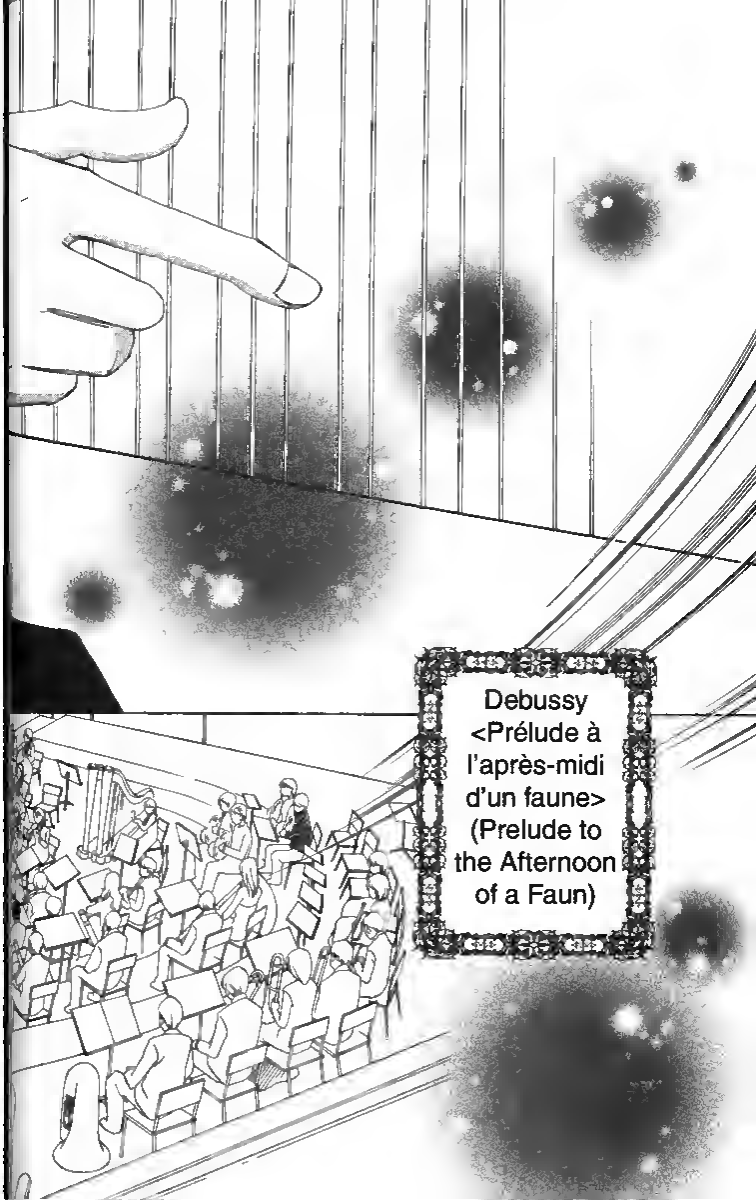
Like Ohkawa-sensei.
I'll bring lots of people again!
I'm looking forward to it.
HA HA HA
Are you playing all new pieces this time?
This will be your last performance in Japan.
Sakuma-san...
You gave me a lot of information on Europe...
I want to thank you for everything.
So I've decided...
HA
HA
HA
Yeah. Yeah.
Wow! That's great!
I'm going to take your advice and go.
You'll be a success. I just know it!
Really!?

Always, always ...
Eh...
Why do you support me so much?
Tell me...
I'm glad you have such faith in me but...
Well, Brahms had Cossel and Josef...
Famous musicians were remembered in history because they met important people.
It wasn't only their talent.
I want to be one of those important people, too.
Ha Ha Ha. Just like one.

Evolving
2004
Rising Star
R☆S Orchestra
NEW YEARS CONCERT
Transformati

January
3rd




Debussy
<Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune>
(Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)

The 1st flute has changed!?
The horn, too!?

And the oboe, cello...
also...
The concert-master has changed, too!!
キャ KYA
What's going on, Kiyora-san...?

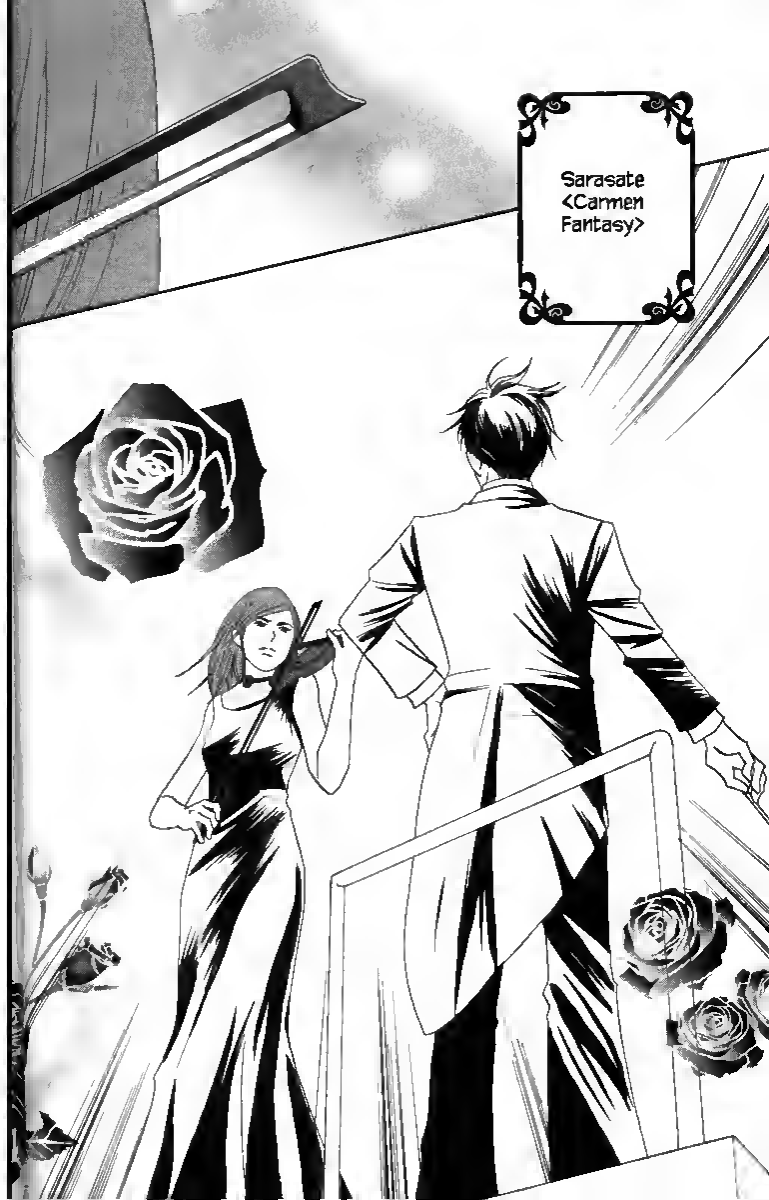
He got 3rd place at the Buffon International Competition. He's that new guy, Noriyuki Takahashi!
Oh...I remember...
him...
And there...
They both look familiar, too...
They're the classical world's Kanou sisters...
Moe and Kaoru Suzuki.
Here's their debut CD.
They're for sale by the entrance.

They're becoming better players...
Good for you.
Chiaki-sama ♡
Moe and Kaoru...
WAA
WAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Great!
KYA
More new members!
There are lots of cute guys.
WAR
Takahashi-kun!
KYA
Yeah.
And they're all great players.
I feel like I've seen them at competitions.

Now
Thump Thump
Thump Thump
Next will be...
WAR
Kiyora Miki's violin concerto.

Kiyora-chan...
Chiaki-sama.
The new members...
have to be introduced at this performance.


Sarasate
<Carmen Fantasy>

But I don't mean to imply that I lost!
So this time I handed over concert-master to him.
Kiyora...
Carmen...
She's my red ruby...

I'm going to miss Kiyora Miki when she's gone.
You think so... Matsuda-kun?
WAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I think...
Bravo!
WAAA
WAA
Bravo!!
Yes.
And this orchestra is...

R. Strauss <Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche> Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks
Their playing is totally different from last time.
Really evolving

How many members are in this orchestra!?
A mountain of music students graduate every year.
But professional orchestras are very limited.
So even if they're great players, it doesn't mean they'll be accepted in one.
Lots of great players don't know what to do with their talent.

CHATTER
CHATTER
We're finally taking a break.
Good work.
WAA
WAA
We will now take a 15-minute intermission.
The last piece will be...
Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.
This piece was...
the first one you conducted with the S orchestra.

WA
HA
HA
Do you remember that the Great Master corrected you a lot on this piece?
.....
He said, "You have failed..."
I've left this piece unfinished.
of my student life in Japan
Now it's the last piece...
it's time!
Got it!
BOINNNG
ヒョヨン
KLK
BOINNNG
ヒョヨーン
KLK

Lesson 30

2 years ago...
Let's begin.
BRNN
UHH
CLICH
TAP
What do you mean, a mistake?!
This was the first piece I conducted with an orchestra
Thank you for waiting, everybody! It's time for the real conductor to play his role!
CLICK
OK! That's enough!
Music...
and people...
TP
So he gets respect back from them.
Christ, you have failed...

And...

I feel like everything starts all over again from this piece ...

Beethoven
Symphony
No.7

I want to give the best performance I can.
Until the very last note...

I'd like to return to this orchestra someday.
In this orches-tra...
The play-ing level of the girls is high.
I'm glad I didn't hit on any of them.

Now I can come back to this orchestra.
I wonder...

What is the "R ☆ S Orchestra"?
Rising Star
I'll be changing that name for sure.
What does it mean?

And you guys who are going abroad...
Boler
Great job, everyone!!
Take care of yourself!!
WAR
Come back!!
Desert-ers!
Bye!!

There won't be any openings if you want to come back, even if you cry!
WAA
I'm not giving anyone my cymbal position!
Yeah, he's right!
You'll have to audition first!
Cheers!
WAA
Hn!
Going abroad isn't always the best thing to do!
Kikuchi, you should be prosecuted for your womanizing!
WA HA HA
WAA
Chiaki-sama ♡
GASP
Ahh...
Thank you very much.
I mean for inviting us to join.
You didn't forget about us. ♡
Well, uh...
You sent me your CD.

I truly think your playing is better.
Both of you.
Chiaki-sama... ♡
I'm so happy to hear that!!
KYA
Now's my chance!
Me too!!
Ah!
I'm happy, too!!
HEE
I'm happier than you are!!
Somebody!
Bring a rope!
KYA
WAA
Masumi-chan, good move!
Oh, no.
I'm losing my chance to tell them...
Our new concert-master is also...
WAA

You got away from them
That I'm going to be leaving soon...
Where are you going, Chiaki-kun?
TP
So...
You're going, right?
Eh...
Abroad?
Chiaki-kun, are you going to Vienna!?
Are you going to see Stresemann!?
Why does everybody know that...?
Well...
Because...
We heard it from Mine-kun.

Mine!
Why is Chiaki-kun leaving!?
Because...
You would have panicked...
How come no one told me...?
No way...
KLANG
I hope you found us a new conductor!
So, Chiaki
Wahh! you swindler!!
I won't let you leave!
If everybody isn't satisfied with him...

Mine...
Yukihisa Matsuda...
He was with the R orchestra in Paris last year.
And he'll be conducting the M Philharmonic in Japan this year.
You're kidding me!
GYA
Matsuda-sama!?
He's a professional.
Oh!
KYA
He's the number one young conductor!
Why...!?
I guess he's a bit odd, too...
You guys are making too much of this...
so he should fit right in with you guys.
WAP
Yahoo!!
KYA
Yes!!

It's over...
Matsuda-san
You're such a...
Him
Wow!
KYA
I've finally...
completed my work...
You're such a...
He's more famous than Chiaki, so more people will come!
This'll be good.

Everything
GACHYA ガチャ

I should leave this place...
and stay with the Miyoshi family until I go to Europe.

I've gotta clean up...

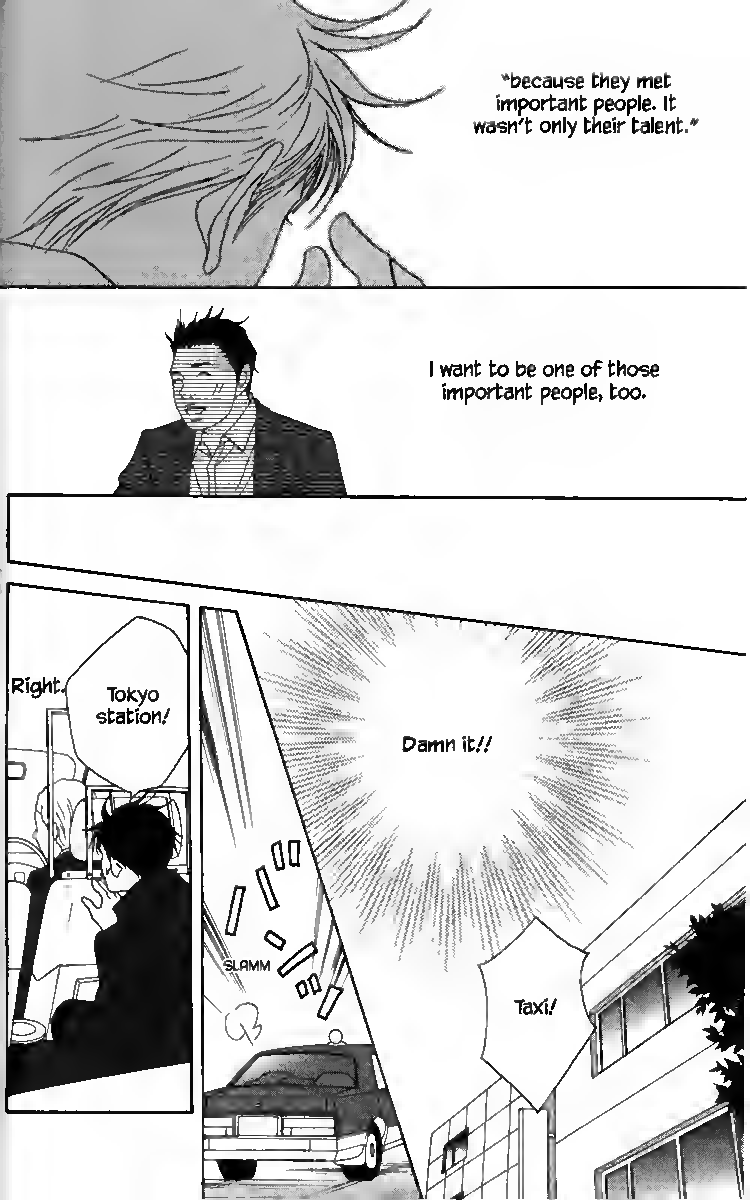
Damn it!
That idiot...

I may never hear you play again!!
I want to play piano my way and enjoy it. Is that so wrong?
For good or bad...

I haven't heard from Nodame.
And she doesn't e-mail me back either.
What's the matter with Nodame-chan!?
I understand that she's shocked...
She hasn't been to school since the competition...
The number you have dialed may be out of the service area...
or the phone may be turned off.
This isn't good.

There's not much time left...
I'll have to wait until she recovers.
I don't have a choice...
KAKLANG
KAKLANG
I can't reach her on her cell...
GAKON
I should find her parents' phone number!
WEIGHT LOSS TEA.

"Famous musicians were remembered in history..."


"because they met important people. It wasn't only their talent."
I want to be one of those important people, too.
Damn it!!
Taxi!
SLAMM
Right.
Tokyo station!

Why do I have to be one of those people to her?
I'd go by Shinkansen...
Why...
do I have to do this...?
Overseas to him
And why...
did she have to live in Kyushu...?

If she turns me down again...
I'll never forgive her!

Lesson51

PONN

BEETHOVEN
They had it...
tuned...

Her reaction is unusual... as if someone had forced her to do it.
SLAM
↑I heard this happened with Harlean
I already knew she wasn't interested in a professional career.
But I didn't expect what she did to me...
I don't know how to persuade her.
SHREEEEE
Will you go to Europe with me?
I thought for sure that she'd say yes.
Why...?

I don't know what to do...
I mustered up all my courage and asked you!
Damn her!
KLAKA
KLAKA
Remembering makes him mad
As odd as you are, I accept you and I'll take you abroad...

Oh.
LOOK!

Megumi-chan!?
She came back home?
BEETHOVEN
CHOPIN

CLAP
CLAP
Good, good.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
That's a nice song.
Did you learn that at school?
CLAP
CLAP

That was Schubert.

Wow, you really entered a contest!?
GABON がばん!
But I lost.
A competition as in a piano contest?
Yeah.
I just played it at a competition.
A competition!?
Schubert...
Really...?
Was it fun playing for all those people?
So...
Yeah!
GABA がば
I wasn't good at playing Schubert, but...
my boyfriend ♡ supported me.
I wore a beautiful dress.
at the finals, too.
Really ~
Someone yelled for me to fix my hair.
It really surprised me.
The audience clapped a lot for me.
That was at the first preliminary.

Ohkawa ..
Ohkawa station?
Hakata Station
博多
竹下 150
笹原 200
南福岡 220
春日 220
大野城 220
水城 270
都府楼南 270
二日市 270
天拝山
久
多久
多久
城
柚須 200
南町 220
220
220

Please take me to this address!
She told me her parents live in a big city.
So maybe it's not far from Fukuoka.
PEEP
ピー
The number you have dialed may be out of the service area...
PEEP
ピー
Her cell is still turned off...

Unread 23/23
001 It's Etoh.
002 Call Etoh!
003 Answer the phone!
004 Please answer the phone!
005 It's important!
006 Puri Gorota News
Etoh-sensei...?
All of them?
Oh!
PEEP
PEEP
Fuoh...
You have 23 new messages.
23!?
GYABON...
It's Etoh.
PEEP
Puri Gorota News!?
It's Etoh, you idiot!
Judge Auclair from the competition recommended that you go to a music school in France so I've sent them an application for you.
The exam is in February.
If you're interested in going, contact me right away.

Megumi! Can you go buy some leeks!?
Welcome to Saga
Saga Dried Seaweed Village
Saga Prefecture
Excuse me...
That address...
Aren't we going the wrong way?
I wanted to go to Ohkawa city in Fukuoka...
We're okay.
Ohkawa is almost in Saga.
It's not a big city at all!

I wanted money for playing around!!
She turned her eyes away then, too...
Always! She always lies to me!!
I practiced.
A bath? I took one...
I cleaned up..
She always turns her eyes away
I wonder if she really does want to go...?
PINGING
PING
Nodame!?
PINGING
Huh!?
PINGING
!!

It's me.
Wow! Where are you!?
Eh?
At my parents'...
I'm glad to hear from you.
Are you still in Japan, sempai? ♡
Where do you...
He's in Kyushu.
think I'd be?
Well, sempai...

Nodame's decided to go abroad, too!
MUKYA
Are you okay, sir?
Why did I come here!?
Can you pull over?
Eh?
But, we're still...
I don't care, just stop!
Stop?
Senpai?

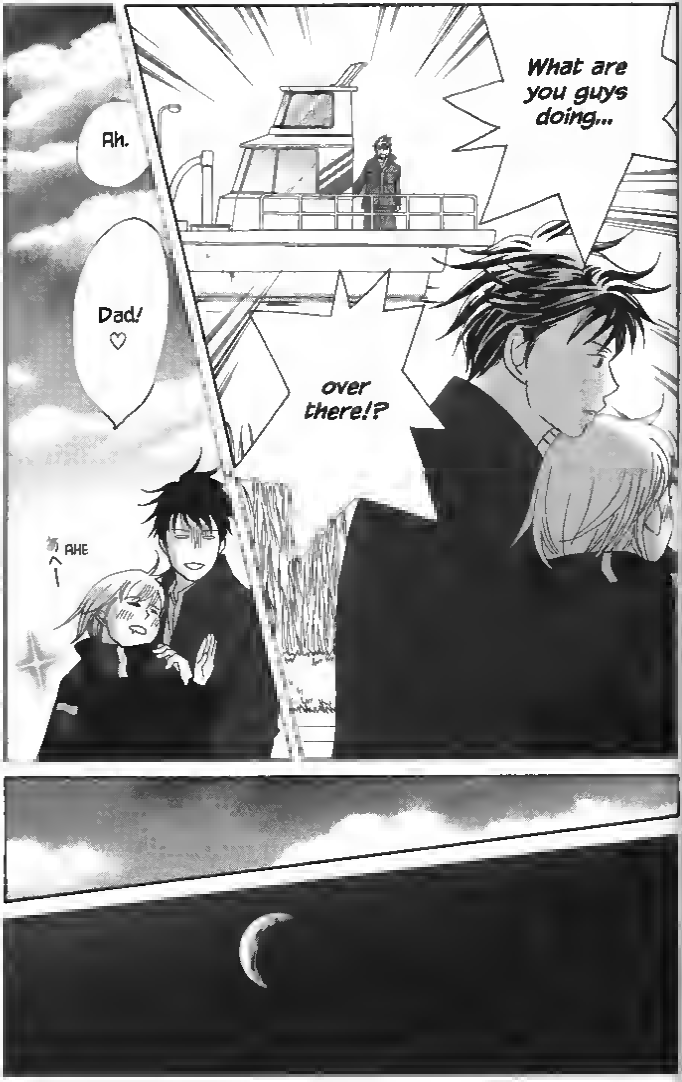
Sempai... You don't think that's a good idea?
SLAM
you said Europe'd be good for me...
Hm...
Are you serious?
Yes.
Etoh-sensei left me a message saying he used the application I filled out for international competitions
to apply to a school
Harisen did!?
Well...
In France.
What country is it in?

in France!
A music school...
I need to pass a test to get in.
Oh...
but...
but I'll try my best...
on the piano!
You and I may be in different countries...
And if I do...
Someday I may play a piano concerto on the same stage as you, like you did with Milch.

and Nodame will play piano...
Chiaki-sempai will conduct...
like the Philadelphia Orchestra?
CHG
CHG
CHG
Our performance will be a huge success...
We will be a golden pair
and get lots of requests to perform all over the world.
It would be nice to play "Rhapsody In Blue" with the New York Phil...
And much more...
Sempai and I could do a violin sonata too!
A lot of fun things...

You can say that after you pass your exam.
Ch...
Chiaki-sempai!?
SHOCK ガーン

FUOH ふぉお
Ah...
Happy...
New Year...
CHG
CHG
CHG
CHG
Happy New Year to you, too...
CHG
CHG
It's good to see you...
CHG
Yeah.
CHG
CHG


What are you guys doing...
over there!?
Ah.
Dad! ♡
AHE

You want to go abroad!?
Abroad...
Yes.
So...
Can you give me your savings for your retirement? ♡

We don't have any savings!
You still want to go...
even though our dry seaweed machine exploded!?
(A lie)
I think there's a way to work it out...
PSHHH
There's a foundation that helps fund students who are studying abroad.
Well...
Nodame brought him here.
OHHH
おおーう
Great!
I'm finally released!!
Nodame should pass my mother's judgment.
I think she'll be okay.
Honna-kote ya!?
You can work it out?
Really?
She has to be accepted, right?

HA
Good, good.
HA
HA
You want to study more?
Rome? Milan?
Megumi's studying abroad...
I'm glad you found a way to go there!
Who..?
Huh?
THUMP
THUMP
By the way...
Anta dokon hito ne?
Who are you?
Don't lie to me!!
Huh!
GYA!
Ho
You can't fool me!
Boy-friend!?
That's what I thought.
He's Shinichi Chiaki-kun. ♡
GYAHA
He's her boy-friend.
PFFF

It's impossible for you to get such a good-looking boyfriend!!
He's just kidding!
I'm just a friend of hers from her school.
Sonnara nande koko ni ottoka!?
Then why are you here?
Just a friend!?
And what did you do to my daughter down by the river!?
Ah... I can explain!
The reason I threw my arms around her is just like when soccer players hug after they make a goal...
It didn't mean anything.
He hugged you!?
Hukum...
Bai
Really?
You did a good job, Megumi!
WAA
Sis, you scored!

Her family doesn't care...
Get the sake!
Let's celebrate!
WAA
You have a boyfriend, and you're going abroad!?
Spring is in the air
They don't even care about her piano and music!?
Congratulations!
What country and school she is going to?
Is this how Nodame was raised?
They accept us. ♡
Hm
Chiaki-kun! You can stay over tonight! ♡
...brother-in-law!
I'll make you something to eat...

Lesson 52

Can you make an omelet, Grandma?
Is Chiaki-kun getting up?
I'm gonna heat up miso soup.
Huh? Megumi?
No, I'm right here.

PANT
PANT
White Chopin...
I want to hear more...
Chopin is "white," huh...?
Is it too loud?
Your piano playing...
I might not get to hear it anymore.
My brother's at school...
You can play more if you want to.
Everybody's already gone to work.
It's all right.

Uh...?
What country are you going to study in, sempai?
Austria...
But I have a house in Vienna I used to live in.
So actually
Paris and Vienna
are both possibilities, too.

Eh?
Is the distance close enough to where I can take a train to go eat at your house after school?
Is Vienna...
close to Paris?
Nowhere near close enough!!
To eat!?
Would it be like living together in Osaka?
Then...
Pick a place between Tokyo and Saga.
Paris
It's like the distance between Tokyo and Saga!
Vienna
Tokyo
You have no idea how far it is by train!!
Saga

What are you thinking...?
Let's find a way we can live together!
It'll bring our relationship closer.
No, no!!
I think we'll want to be seeing more of each other soon.
We've already cultivated love without seeing each other.
No we haven't!!
Then, Chiaki-sempai...
Why did you come here?
I came to see a Fukuoka Daiei Hawks baseball game...
Baseball season ended!!
On New Year's
Then, baseball camps.
There are no camps!!
MUKYA
Turned his eyes away

Have you been practicing!?
Eh?
If you don't pass your exam, you can't go anywhere.
By the way... your piano!
How about a piece you played at the competition!?
Why don't you play something!?
I know... about the test...
Okay...I'm gonna play Chopin, too...
Etude 10-4...

Huh... What's the matter with me?
I played Chopin well the other day.
Because it's a slow piece?
Your...
Why aren't your fingers working right?
Oh. Because I played video games?
I don't feel like these are my hands...
Your hands got soft from lack of exercise!!
We're leaving!!

She played piano a lot every day.
MUKYA
むきゃ
You're going back to Tokyo to practice!!
Not good.
But then she hasn't played since the competition!!
Megumi!?
SLIDE
Her exam is next month!
Where are you going?
Ah! A snapper!

Discount Furniture
Furniture Market
What's your hurry to get back to Tokyo?
The wind was too strong to take my boat out for work today.
So instead I'm going to give you a tour of Ohkawa.
Do you want to eat Hakata noodles?
No, thank you.
Please take us straight to the Hakata train station.
Oh, it's ice cream!
And really good ice cream!
Your daughter's in critical condition.

There's a famous ruin in Saga.
Excuse me...
We have to hurry...
because we don't fly.
Karaoke Beethoven
Okay, then only one stop...
Wow ~
A dry beach!

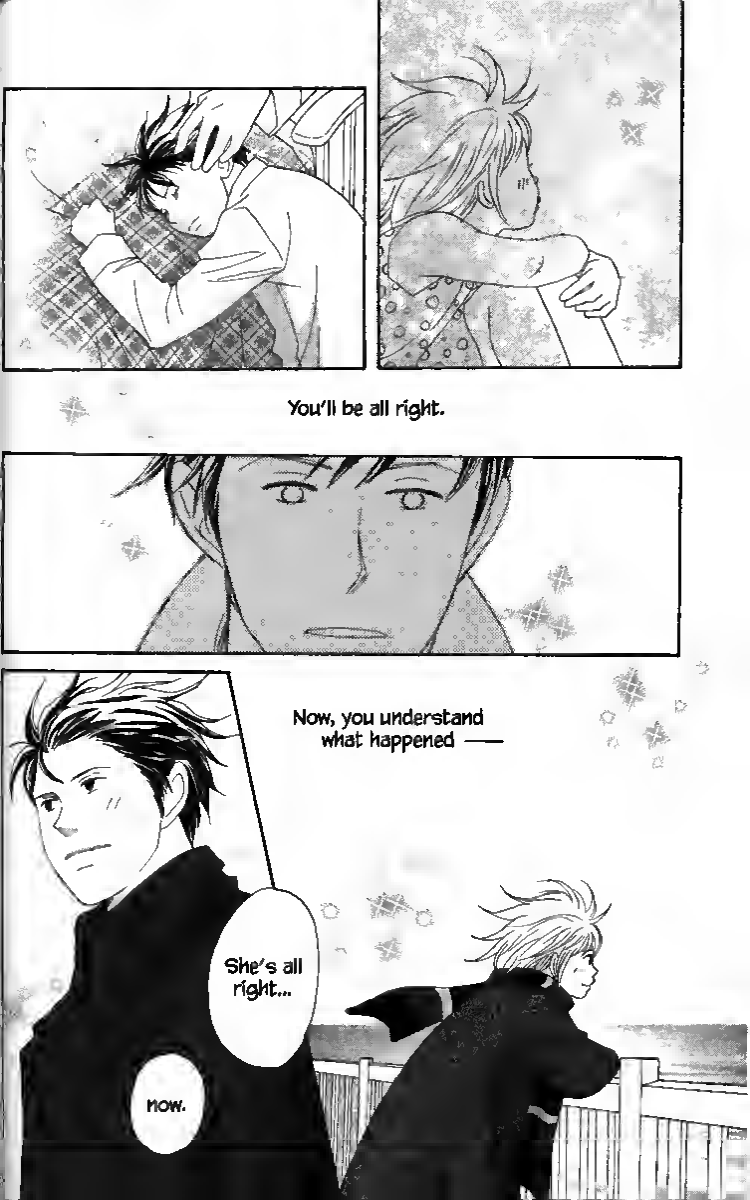
Ebb tide!
MUKYA
Are there any mud-skippers?
Out of season
I've never been here before...
Mudskippers...
Oh!
Chiaki-kun, Chiaki-kun!
Over there is where we get our seaweed.
.....
There's a tele-scope!
Do you want to try it?

But do you think she'll be all right...
if she goes abroad?
Don't worry...
I won't.
Please don't ask me to "take care of your daughter."
When she first started playing piano...
She was only 5 years old.
At the time, I was still working in Tokyo.
There was a girl nearby who was going to a music college.
We always heard her practicing her piano.

Megumi enjoyed her playing a lot.
So she started visiting her a lot.
After awhile, the girl came over with a desperate look and told us...
You should get her into piano lessons, immediately!
▷ Mother
So we sent her to a famous instructor near our home.
HANAZAKURA PIANO CLASS
SEEKING NEW STUDENTS
FREE ORIENTATION CLASS
PLEASE COME VISIT
And then again...
You should take her abroad to study piano, immediately!
▷ Mother (doing swim-wear fashion show)
immediately...
But...
Ever since then, she started acting strange...

That's not good.
Ah! Megumi-chan skipped her piano lesson again.
She started to hate going to piano lessons...
Her instructor was very strict.
BITE
WAH!
WHACK
Why can't you play it how I tell you to!?
Then one day something happened...
She can already play such a difficult piece...
KONK
SPURT

He apologized profusely, but...
Megumi gave up playing the piano after that.
Until yesterday, she was like that again.
Do you really think Megumi is suited to be a professional pianist?
Being a professional pianist
doesn't mean she can play however she wants, does it?
Her heart was broken when she was a child...


You'll be all right.
Now, you understand what happened ——
She's all right...
now.

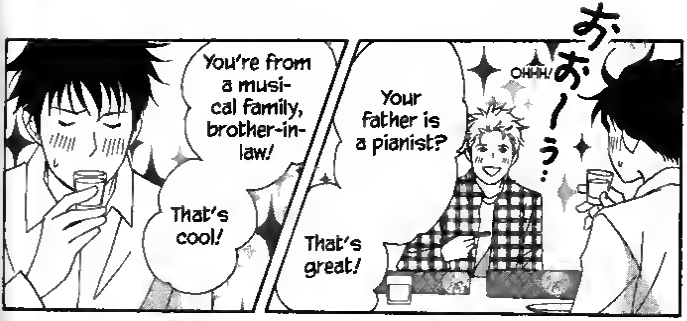
That's the way of the world...
Whether or not your instructor is strict...
But she never really stopped...
Shinichi is an idiot!
Some people will improve, some of them won't....
after all...
Nobody knows if either of us will succeed or not...
it doesn't mean they can.
And even if someone wants to be a professional pianist,
for sure.
But whenever I hear her play piano...
I like it a lot.
Who's an idiot...!?

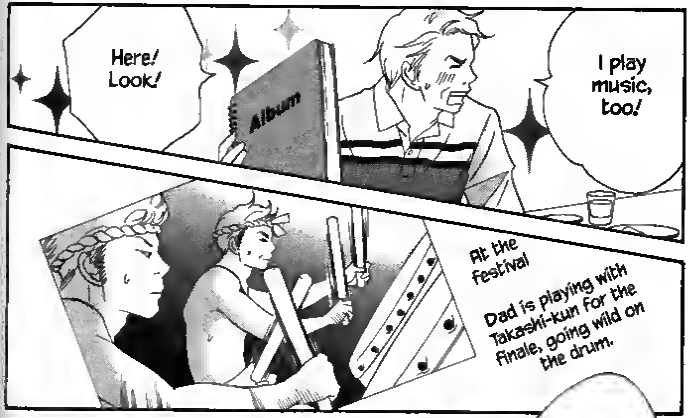
Excited
My son...
Huh?
Huh?
You like her that much...
You...
I'm glad you guys came back...
WAA
I was disappointed you left without saying goodbye!
We should get to know each other a little better.
HA
HA
HA
Right, right.
I haven't taken a picture with Chiaki-kun yet.
I cooked you some dumplings today!
Welcome home!!

ドドド

You can handle your sake.
HA
POP
That's good!!
HA
HA
Chiaki-kun drank all of it yesterday.
We've got lots of sake.
The dumplings are ready!!
My new item, dried seaweed dumplings, is complete!
Here, sempai
Chiaki-kun, Chiaki-kun.
AH
Umaka-gotoshi to'yakka
They look tasty
WOW!
I prepared them at my work.
You did a good job!

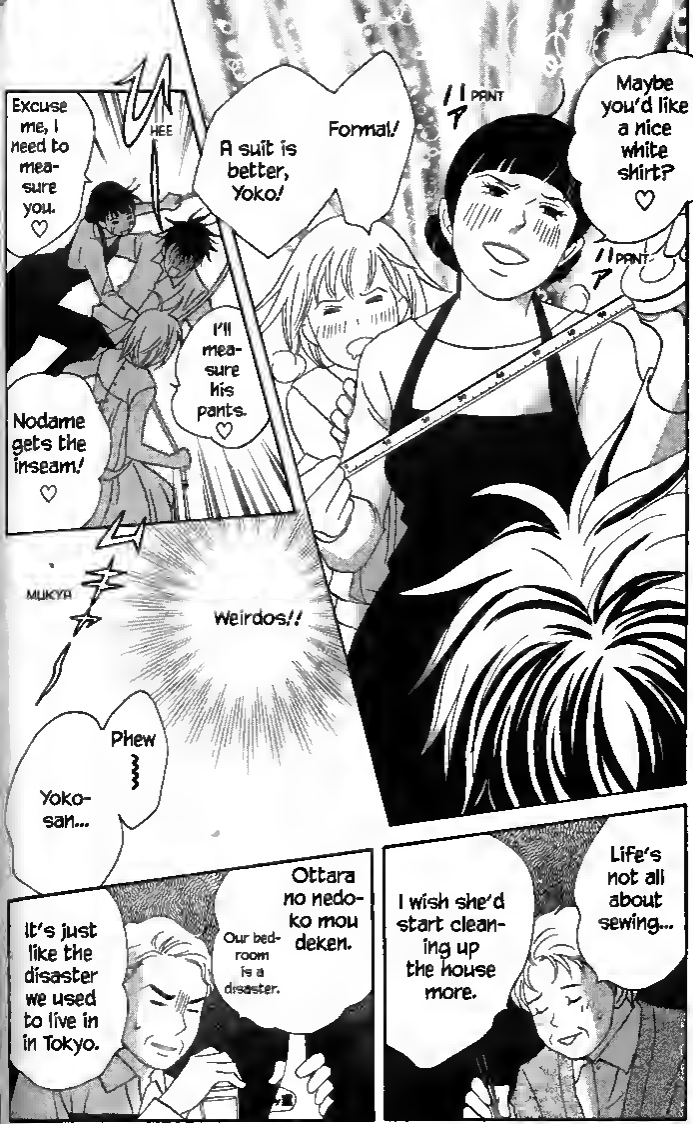
Ready for lard
Want some lard?
WAA
Gyaha ha ha ha ha!
Not again, Dad!
GYAHA
This is definitely...
That's not funny!!
where Nodame was raised.
Really!
You want to be a conductor, Chiaki-kun!?


You're from a musical family, brother-in-law!
That's cool!
Your father is a pianist?
That's great!
OHHH!
おおーっ!


Here! Look!
Album
I play music, too!
At the festival
Dad is playing with Takashi-kun for the finale, going wild on the drum.

I look cool, don't I!?
I'm a great player!
Dad! You shouldn't say that about yourself!
What do you mean!?
PHEW
はあ
WAA!
Chiaki-sempai... ♡

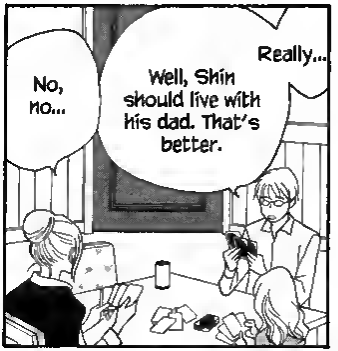
This is my new spring dress!♡
What do you think?
I just finished making it for her today!♡
Clear.
WAR
This is a nice one!
Another Mode Salon Yoko!
Fluff fluff..♡
I copied a brand name this time.
HO HO HO
I asked her to make it short.
It's sexy, the way you like it.♡
Chiaki-kun, here are the buttons to undo it.♡
Right Here
There are eight buttons. It's not so easy, but good luck!
Eh..?
Chiaki-kun! How would you like me to sew something for you?♡
Oh!
Nodame can't button it up all by herself!
That's nasty!
WAR
What are you talking about!?


Excuse me, I need to measure you. ♡
HEE
A suit is better, Yoko!
Formal!
PANT
Maybe you'd like a nice white shirt? ♡
PANT
I'll measure his pants. ♡
Nodame gets the inseam! ♡
MUKYA
Weirdos!!
Phew
Yoko-san...
It's just like the disaster we used to live in in Tokyo.
Ottara no nedoko mou deken.
Our bedroom is a disaster.
I wish she'd start cleaning up the house more.
Life's not all about sewing...

There's no way out.
You'll have to clean up.
はぁ
GEEZ
I married an awful woman...
I won't go...
There's no way I'm going to France!!
Hold still... ♡
Chiaki's powerless (he drank too much).
Is it true that Shin can't stay in Vienna!?

Masayuki-san will be staying there after returning from Germany.
Right ~~~

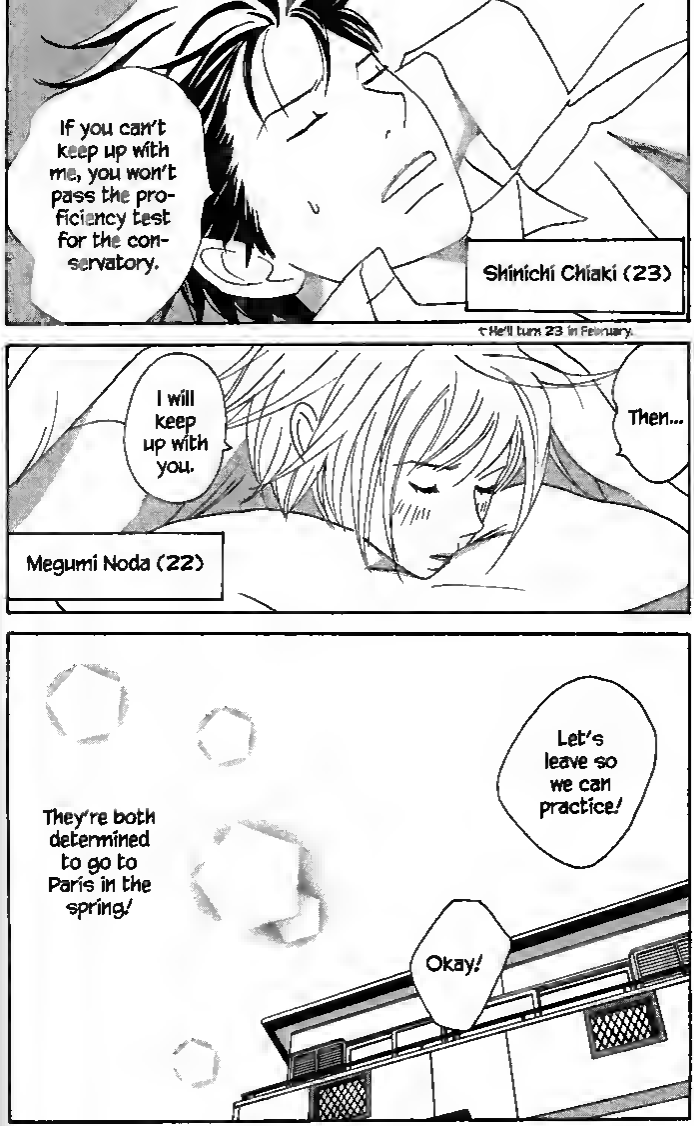
The main reason he didn't want to go to Germany was because his dad was there.
So that's impossible.


No, no...
Really... Well, Shin should live with his dad. That's better.

Right...
We can go for our second choice, Paris...

Then Austria's not good either, right?

KYA
There are lots of good-looking guys.
And it's fashionable. ♡
KYA
There's a lot of tasty food there. ♡
I want to date Shin in Paris. ♡
If I send him to Paris, that room we're renting out will be available soon...
and I like Paris. ♡
I like it, too. ♡
A curse card
I'd better start preparing right away.
TV
But... shouldn't you ask him first?
No. It's okay.
HEE
You can't decide by yourself without asking him!
It's okay! Who do you think is paying for everything!?


If you can't keep up with me, you won't pass the proficiency test for the conservatory.
Shinichi Chiaki (23)
† He'll turn 23 in February.
I will keep up with you.
Then...
Megumi Noda (22)
They're both determined to go to Paris in the spring!
Let's leave so we can practice!
Okay!

Thank you for helping me in my research!!

The real Noda family (Thank you)

The real Nodame (She teaches her own piano class in Ohkawa. Seeking students!)

Hoshino-kun (Violinist who is becoming a long-hair.)

Akinori Ohsawa-sensei (Composer, "Let's search for tomorrow.")

Miki Ohsawa-san (Pianist)

He got a trumpet (my husband)
PHOOON
It gives me joy to make sound with a trumpet (a small thrill).
She likes wind instruments. ↑
I got a flute, too! I used to play it. I wonder if I still can...

About the Author

Tomoko Ninomiya was born in Saitama in 1969. She made her debut as manga-ka with "London Doubt Boys" in 1989. Her main works include "Green" and "Miko the Trend Queen." She is currently working on "Nodame Cantabile," which is serialized in *Kiss* (Kodansha).

Tomoko Ninomiya's comment upon winning the 28th Kodansha Manga Award in 2004:

"I hope someone enjoys reading this series.
This hope and wish is what always motivates me when working on a manga.

"The original inspiration for 'Nodame Cantabile' came from an idea that I had, that it might be fun to write about a young piano student who practices the piano in a room full of junk. Looking back, I am amazed that my editor and the magazine let me serialize it, and I'm grateful.

"This is also a series which would not have been possible without the generous cooperation of music students and professionals whom I interviewed. The Manga Award goes to everyone who was involved with 'Nodame,' including Mikawa-san, my editor, and all the staff members who work with me.

"I will continue to enjoy working on this series, and I hope my readers will continue to enjoy it, too."

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Hyottoko, page 14

Hyottoko (fire + man) refers to a type of performance mask originating in ancient Japan. The mouth is pursed as if blowing on a fire, and one eye is usually squeezed shut. This is just another one of the funny faces Nodame makes.

Otoshidama, page 71

In Japan, New Year's is a time of celebration and starting fresh. It's a custom for children to receive *otoshidama* (New Year's money) from relatives, and it is their favorite time of year. *Otoshidama* is given in small envelopes specifically made

for this purpose. Nodame and her brother have just received their envelopes from their grandparents. Nodame's grandmother comments that this will be the last year that Nodame will receive one, because she hopes that Nodame will be graduating and getting a job.

Ozoni, page 74

Ozoni is a soup traditionally eaten on New Year's. Ingredients can vary depending on taste and region, but it's basically a light soup eaten with *mochi* (rice cakes).

The Kanou sisters, page 86

The Kanou sisters, Kyoko and Mika, are a pair of beautiful Japanese women who are well known in Japan for their adult videos. They also show up in various magazines, print ads, and celebrity TV shows.

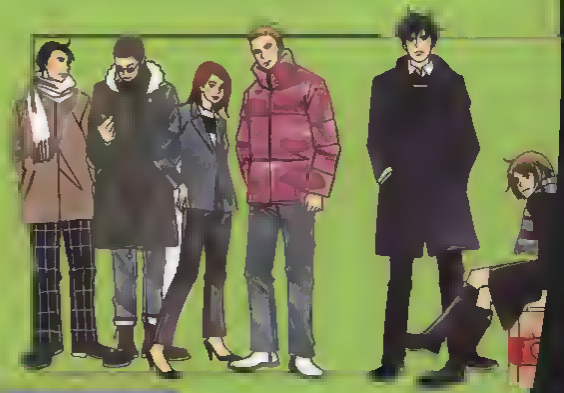
Nodame's family dialect, page 155

Shinichi meets Nodame's family for the first time and finds that they sometimes speak with a heavy dialect. In the original Japanese, each line spoken in a dialect is accompanied by a Japanese "translation" in parentheses, for those who can't fully understand what's being said. Since in English this would amount to two translations saying the same thing, we've rewritten the original dialect lines in romaji (Roman letters) and used the parentheses to give the English translation. This way both English and Japanese readers can understand the writer's original intent.

MUSIC TO THE EARS

Nodame's grueling lessons with her teacher have paid off: At last she agrees to play in a piano competition. Too bad there's not enough time for Nodame to learn all the required pieces. . . . Meanwhile, Shinichi has mysteriously overcome his fear of flying and finally decided to go to Europe to further his musical studies. Out of the blue, he asks Nodame to join him—but she turns him down. Determined to get her to change her mind, Shinichi travels to Nodame's hometown. Will the challenge prove too great, once he finds out about Nodame's strange past—and her wacky family?

Includes special extras after the story!



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